

From: drummond@bethe.physics.uq.edu.au@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/10/02 12:47am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Department of Justice,
Washington,
USA.

RE: Microsoft settlement

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to make a submission with regard to the Microsoft settlement.

First of all, this settlement has international and global repercussions, and I hope that you can accept a submission from someone who is not a US citizen - from the viewpoint that monopoly is a global problem.

When there is a monopoly in software - as already ruled by the courts - the international nature of the software market means that the monopoly is far more extensive than the US, and causes damage internationally.

From my point of view as a consumer, I have never had a software product sold by Microsoft work acceptably. In every case, there were bugs that caused data loss or worse, which Microsoft did not fix.

So, these products do not suit me, yet I find myself continually being forced to purchase them because of the monopolistic types of business methods used by Microsoft in Australia and elsewhere.

These methods include especially the bundling of software with PC's, which I find highly objectionable. Why should I have to pay for an OS and software that I never use? Yet I have no choice in this!

The use of proprietary and nonstandard file formats is another weapon used by Microsoft, which forces email and internet users to adopt Microsoft software. This is objectionable, and surely illegal.

To settle with Microsoft, I suggest that Microsoft at least should be forced to refund the cost of unwanted software

to consumers - both for past and future purchases - in order to discourage this monopolistic practise.

In addition I suggest that file formats be published, and MS be enjoined to support at least one internationally approved format - preferably standardised through the W3C - in each of its high market share programs.

The idea of Microsoft donating software in settlement is out of the question. How can a legal settlement that tends to increase the impact of illegal activity be accepted? As a consumer, I prefer a cash refund!

Peter Drummond.

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